

Appl. No. 10/024,713

Amndt. dated June 23, 2004

Reply to Final Office Action of February 24, 2004

The following listing of claims includes amendments and this listing supercedes all prior listings of the claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A ball bearing cage adapted to be positioned between an inner bearing ring and an outer bearing ring, the cage including a machined or cast and rigid annular ring member having first and second oppositely oriented sides, a plurality of first recesses provided in spaced relationship with respect to one another in said first side of said ring member, each of said first recesses being of a configuration to cooperatively receive a single ball therein, [[and]] a plurality of second recesses provided in spaced relationship with one another in said second side of said ring member and each of said second recesses being of a configuration to cooperatively receive a single ball therein, such that said balls are aligned in a single annular row within said ring member, and first and second groups of first recesses spaced between two diametrically opposite second recesses.

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Claim 2 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 1, wherein each of said first and second recesses is defined between two arms and a bottom, said arms extending in a direction substantially parallel to a central axis of rotation ($X_1-X'_1$) of said ring member, while said bottom is substantially perpendicular to said central axis.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 2, wherein certain of said arms define two adjacent of said first recesses, said certain of said arms each comprising a first end adjacent the respective bottoms of said adjacent recesses and a second free end.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 2, wherein certain of said arms define two adjacent first and second recesses, said certain of said arms comprising a first end adjacent the bottom of one of said two adjacent first and second recesses and a second end adjacent the bottom of the other adjacent first and second recess.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 2 wherein the bottom of the second recesses includes an orifice for passage of a member for extracting balls in place in said second recesses.

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Claim 6 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 2, wherein said arms defining each of said first and second recesses each have concave surfaces oriented towards one another and adapted to cooperate with an outer surface of a ball.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 1, wherein said ring member is cast or machined in one continuous annular piece.

Claims 9-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented) The cage of claim 1 wherein said first recesses are in spaced offset relationship with respect to said second recesses about said ring member.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 12 wherein each of said second recesses is defined by opposite arms and a bottom wall, and an opening through each of said bottom walls communicating with said first side of said ring member whereby a tool may be inserted through said openings to eject balls positioned within said second recesses.

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Claim 14 (Previously presented) The cage of Claim 1 wherein each of said second recesses is defined by opposite arms and a bottom wall, and an opening through each of said bottom walls communicating with said first side of said ring member, whereby a tool may be inserted through said openings to eject balls positioned within said second recesses.

Claim 15 (Currently amended) A ball bearing including an inner bearing ring and an outer bearing ring between which is seated a ball bearing cage, said ball bearing cage including a machined or cast and rigid annular ring member having first and second oppositely oriented sides, a plurality of first recesses provided in spaced relationship with respect to one another in said first side of said ring member, each of said first recesses being of a configuration to cooperatively receive a single ball therein, [[and]] a plurality of second recesses provided in spaced relationship with one another in said second side of said ring member and each of said second recesses being of a configuration to cooperatively receive a single ball therein[[.]] , such that said balls are aligned in a single annular row within said ring member, first and second groups of first recesses spaced between two diametrically opposite second recesses.

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Claim 16 (Previously presented) The ball bearing of Claim 15 wherein said inner bearing ring defines an inner bearing race and said outer bearing ring defines an outer bearing race opposing said inner bearing race, and at least one notch in one of said inner and outer bearing rings for introducing said balls between said inner and outer bearing races.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The ball bearing of claim 16 wherein said first recesses are in spaced offset relationship with respect to said second recesses about said ring member.

Claim 18 (Previously presented) The ball bearing of Claim 17 wherein each of said second recesses is defined by opposite arms and a bottom wall, and an opening through each of said bottom walls communicating with said first side of said ring member, whereby a tool may be inserted through said openings to eject balls positioned within said second recesses.

Claim 19 (Previously presented) The ball bearing of Claim 15 wherein each of said second recesses is defined by opposite arms and a bottom wall, and an opening through each of said bottom walls communicating with said first side of said ring member, whereby a tool may be inserted through said openings to eject

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balls positioned within said second recesses.